

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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## News Release

December 12, 2008

### Alligator River NWR Takes First Place in Manteo Christmas Parade with Fire Safety Message!

Christmas came early at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge when the Refuge float was awarded 1st place at the local Christmas parade in Manteo, North Carolina. Refuge employees, along with a slew of volunteers, represented Alligator River's extensive fire program by expressing our theme, "Fire Can Be Friend or Foe; Have a SAFE and MERRY Christmas." Volunteers awed the crowd by turning to their wild sides and taking on the rolls of Blue Goose, American Alligator, and the ever elusive Red Wolf. Eight local children were Junior Refuge Fire Fighters (in training), completely equipped with Nomax, hard hats, flaming drip torches, and "blinged-up" water hoses. The sooty-faced Junior Fire Fighters dedicatedly fought a wall of flames protecting the habitat and its many species of wildlife, of course while waving and wishing everyone a "Merry Fishmas." The Marsh Master was also featured in the parade, showing the public one of many unique pieces of equipment needed to manage prescribed burns and wild fires in a pocosin /marsh environment.

From the Staff and Volunteers of Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge to all of you- Have a safe and happy holiday season, and "MERRY FISHMAS".



Our float erupted in a huge cheer when the judges announced the FWS float is the FIRST PLACE winner

in the 2008 Manteo Christmas Parade. Most of the kids wore their "soot" as a badge of honor for the rest of the day!

Photo Credit - The Coastland Times